CALL FOR PARTNERSHIPS

The WSIS Executive Secretariat is placing an open call to organizations from all sectors participating in the Summit to forward information regarding partnership initiatives to be announced during the course of the Summit. Partnerships which meet a set of guiding principles established by the Secretariat will be included in official WSIS communications, including Summit press releases and backgrounders, as well as the WSIS website.

If you plan to announce partnership initiatives during the Summit, or have recently done so as part of the Geneva preparatory phase, please inform the WSIS Executive Secretariat in writing as soon as possible, along with a short description and/or press release with contact information at: wsis.partnerships@itu.int

Partnerships Guiding Principles

1) Objective of partnerships

Partnerships for the Information Society are specific commitments by various partners intended to contribute to and reinforce the implementation of the outcomes of the intergovernmental negotiations of the WSIS (Plan of Action and Declaration of Principles) and to help achieve the further implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

2) Voluntary nature/respect for fundamental principles and values

Partnerships are of a voluntary, 'self-organizing' nature; they are based on mutual respect and shared responsibility of the partners involved, taking into account the U.N principles and the values expressed in the Millennium Declaration.

3) Link with globally agreed outcomes

Partnerships are to complement the intergovernmentally agreed outcomes of WSIS. They are not intended to substitute commitments made by governments. Rather they should serve as mechanisms for the delivery of the globally agreed commitments by mobilizing the capacity for producing action on the ground.

4) Multi-stakeholder approach

Partnerships should have a multi-stakeholder approach and preferably involve a range of significant actors in a given area of work. They can be arranged among any combination of partners, including governments, regional groups, local authorities, non-governmental actors/civil society, international institutions and private sector partners.

5) New/value added partnerships

Partnerships should be either developed within the framework of the WSIS process or, in case of on-going partnerships, present a significant added value in the context of the WSIS (e.g. more partners taken on board, replicating an initiative or extending it to another geographical region, increasing financial resources, etc.)

6) Tangible Results

Each partnership should define its intended outcome and benefits. Partnerships should have clear objectives and set specific measurable targets and timeframes for their achievement. All partners should explicitly commit to their role in achieving the aims and objectives of the partnerships.

7) Funding arrangements

Available and /or expected sources of funding should be identified. At least the initial funding should be assured at the time of the first or second phase of the Summit, if the partnership is to be recognized there.